

April 24, 1953

Dr. L. S. Baron
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Dept. Bacteriology
Washington 12, D.C.

Dear Dr. Baron:

Thank you for your letter of the 21st., I am sorry to have set you off on a chase after the wild geese. Perhaps, if I may quote Dr. Bruner's letter directly:

"While I was in Italy I sent in the neighborhood of 31 cultures of [S. napoli] to the Army Medical School in Washington. These strains were isolated from Army personnel and Italian civilians. They might still be available at the Army Medical School.... During my stay in Italy I also sent the Army Medical School several strains of somatic group B that were nonmotile. I assumed they were S. typhimurium...."

It occurs to me now that my assumption that your outfit and the Army Medical School are the same may be wrong.

Your letter was not quite clear as to the details of your transduction experiments, with Xyl⁺ and S^F. Is the vector in your experiments a V1 (typing) phage?

As I mentioned previously, I would be very happy to have you visit our laboratory. The week of May 18 would be, far and away, the most convenient time on our part.

If I may ask another favor, do you have some cultures of S. abortus-equi? The one I have been working with (#26) is presently quite rough.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg